

**From:** Chris Meyers  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 12:31pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust trial. I think that any settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice should do at least 2 things, promote healthy competition in the computer operating system/software market, and impose reasonable punishments on Microsoft for their past abuses of their monopoly status. I do not think that the current proposed settlement will do either of these things.

There are many ways to promote more competition in the os/software market. I believe that one way is to force Microsoft to share their API's with other software companies. If other software vendors could have access to the Windows API's it would quickly be shown how farcical Microsoft's claims of necessary integration are. Users would be able to "integrate" any software that they wanted into their operating system rather than having it just sit on top of Windows.

Another way to promote more competition is to allow other vendors to have their operating systems installed on new pc's along with Windows. True choice in the operating system market would allow me to buy a computer with Windows, Linux, BSD, or any number of other operating systems pre-installed on it. However Microsoft's contracts with Original Equipment Manufacturing companies prevents anything like this from happening. This must be changed to promote competition.

As far as Microsoft's punishment for abuse of their monopoly, I do not have any real answers for that. I do not think that a fine will be enough of a deterrent, but I don't think that drastic measures such as the break-up of the company would be good for either the software industry or the world economy. I believe that the 3 person oversight panel is a good start as long as they have the authority to act quickly and prevent monopoly extending products from being introduced into the market. If it cannot act quickly and pre-emptively, then I don't think that the panel will be effective at all.

I thank you for your time and I hope that the current proposed settlement will be modified to allow more competition and punish Microsoft in a way that fits the crimes for which the company has been found guilty.

Sincerely,

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